

Little Hadham Parish Council

Minutes of the 23rd meeting of the **Little Hadham Parish Council** (2015 – 2019 Session) held on Tuesday 4th July 2017 at 8:45 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Hadham.

Present:	Mrs E Lloyd-Williams	Chair
	Mr T Hoodless)
	Mr G Pearson)
	Mr G Tooke) Councillors
	Mr N Wardrop)
	Mrs M Wilkinson)
	Mr W Wright)

Mr B Evans – Clerk, and 8 members of the public.

23.1. Absent. None

23.2. Declarations of interest by councillors on any items below. None.

23.3. Democratic ten minutes.

There were no comments or questions from members of the public.

23.4. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Tuesday 25th April 2017 to be agreed and signed as a true record. Agreed.

23.5. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 6th June 2017 to be agreed and signed as a true record. Agreed.

23.6. Matters arising from the minutes. None.

23.7. Strategic matters

23.7.1. Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Wardrop said the group was working on the assessment of the hamlets as part of drafting of the parish Character Assessment and Design Statement. Cllr Wright said the Call for Sites would end on 14th July and the independent body, ACOM, would assess the sites suggested for their suitability. He hoped that a draft plan would be ready for early 2018. Soon, he would have to apply for a grant to fund the next stage of the preparation.

Action
WW

23.8. Highways

23.8.1. Consultation with residents on traffic matters including: traffic calming measures, the Drive Safe Scheme and parking near the village pump. The Chair said she had met with the speeding work group and she had six volunteers for the Safe Drive scheme. They would need some training. They would work in twos with one operating the speed gun and the other noting car numbers of speeding cars. The Chair said that many road signs were in disrepair and needed upgrading. She would ask the group to compile a list for forwarding to HCC Cllr McAndrew. She said she would discuss parking in front of the parish pump with Mr Jon Fardell.

Action
ELW

23.8.2. Vehicles jumping the A120 lights. The Chair said she had nothing new.

23.8.3. Outstanding road repairs including potholes. The Chair said that Albury Road had been subject to a number of closures for the installation of Superfast Broadband. Cllr Pearson said the road closure signs had frequently been left even when the road was clear.

- 23.8.4.** Bypass. The Chair said the 45 planning conditions were being worked on and soon the compulsory purchase orders would be published.
- 23.9. Environment affairs**
- 23.9.1.** Condition of footpaths. Cllr Hoodless referred to a number of reports. [Appendix 1] The Chair noted that Albury had produced a leaflet showing a number of walks round that parish. She said that walk leaders were being sought.
- 23.9.2.** Painting of the bus shelter opposite the Nag's Head. The Clerk said that Mr Joel Hammond had painted the shelter but was having difficulty finding a small number of shingles for the roof. Cllr Hoodless agreed to investigate. Action TH
- 23.9.3.** Inspection of trees for which the Council is responsible. Cllr Hoodless said he would meet the man who did the survey to try to reduce the cost. Cllr Wilkinson said she would forward the contact details of Gascoyne Cecil Estates who might be willing to help. Action TH & MW
- 23.9.4.** Maintenance of the C15 planters. The Chair said that all but one had been replanted and looked very good.
- 23.9.5.** Noise from aircraft using Stansted Airport. Cllr Wright said there was no fixed rate for joining SSE though most councils paid about £120 p.a. He said the Airport Consultative Committee met every 3 months and attendees were allowed to ask a question. He had asked about planes over the parish apparently at lower heights than before. He had been told there had been no changes recently. However, there would soon be experiments with planes following a more accurate route along the flight path. Changes to other flight paths might allow planes to fly higher over the parish. Cllr Wright thought someone should attend each of the meetings. Cllr Wright proposed that he contact the airport to invite them to conduct a noise survey in the parish. Agreed. The Chair noted that the airport had issued a scoping plan for consultation before issuing a planning application for greatly expanding the number of passenger movements and flights. The time given for the consultation was very limited and she proposed that the Council write to Uttlesford District Council asking that the deadline be moved later. Agreed. [Appendix 1] Action WW
- 23.10. Groups and Amenities** No new information.
- 23.11. Community**
- 23.11.1.** Report on the campaign to improve broadband speeds within the parish. Cllr Wilkinson said that Mr Geoffrey Pratt is seeking advice as he thought HCC was not sufficiently competent to manage its contract with Open Reach.
- 23.11.2.** Millennium Wood. The Chair had no news.
- 23.11.3.** Playgrounds. Cllr Tooke said he had no bad news. He was pleased to see how many children, including the school, were using the Village Hall playground. He said Mr Mick Foskett expected to replace the gate catches soon.
- 23.11.4.** Allotments. Cllr Wilkinson said there was nothing to report.
- 23.12. Consultation and Public Relations**
- 23.12.1.** Council website. Cllr Wardrop the Council needed to prioritise what it published. He would contact the Clerk with details of how to change the front page. Action NW

- 23.13. Flooding.** Cllr Pearson said there had been 4 yellow weather warnings in June though no flooding despite some heavy showers.
- 23.14. Security Matters** None.
- 23.15. Parish Council matters.**
- 23.15.1.** To consider the report from the internal audit of the Council. Cllr Tooke said he had read the report and all appeared to be in order.
- 23.15.2.** To consider the report from the Clerks assessment. Cllr Tooke said that he and the Chair had met the Clerk. They agreed that they thought the Clerk was doing a good job. The Clerk had said that he received very little feedback on what to include in agendas. The Chair said she would email councillors asking them to take a more active role. Cllr Tooke said the Clerk was concerned about historical Council documents. They were stored at his home and the home of another resident which were not fire and flood proof nor temperature and humidity controlled. They should be stored at the county archive. He said the Clerk had several boxes of old planning applications. Cllr Tooke thought it unreasonable for the Clerk to find space for these. On planning, Cllr Tooke said the Clerk had amended the response sheet asking if councillors planned to object to an application and, if so, to list the reasons. This would enable the Clerk to draft a letter to EHC for consideration by the Council. Finally, he thought more councillors should take an active role in setting the budget. The current forecast showed the Council would be in deficit in a few years.
- 23.16. Chair's report.**
- 23.16.1.** The Chair said she would try to produce a to do list for the Council and would email councillors. Action
ELW
- 23.16.2.** The Chair said the parish litter picker, Ben Petch, would be going to university in September and so would resign his post at the end of August. She said that he had done an excellent job and wished him well for the future. She proposed the Council present him with a small gift of a £30 book token. Agreed. Action
ELW
- 23.16.3.** The Chair reminded councillors of responding to the call for sites. As there was no meeting in August she asked if any urgent matters could be reported to the Clerk.

23.17. Clerk's Report**23.17.1. Financial statement****Period ending 4th July 2017**

Unity Trust Bank		£21,908.64
Petty cash		-£4.34
	Total	£21,904.30

To be agreed**To Pay**

Staff Salaries	June		£517.41
Staff Salaries	July		£517.21
Clerk's expenses	June and July		£25.90
Petty cash float			£50.00
Mr B Evans	Copy Microsoft Office		£75.00
P Knott (Mower Services)	2 cuts playing fields in June		£242.00
CDA for Herts	Annual subscription		£35.00
Little Hadham Village Hall	Use Hall April to June	£75.00	
	Refuse disposal Apr to Jun	£58.50	£133.50
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE April to June		£248.60
	Total payments		£1,844.62

Total in all accounts and petty cash after payment of this month's bills £20,109.68**23.17.2.** Proposed to accept payment of accounts. Agreed**23.17.3.** Proposed to accept the accuracy of the financial statement. Agreed.

23.18. To consider how to ensure prompt bank authorisations. Cllr Pearson asked that he be removed as a Council signatory. The Chair proposed that Cllrs Wright and Tooke be added to herself and Cllr Wilkinson as Council signatories. The signatories would have the right to see the Council Unity Trust Bank account and to authorise payments set up by the Clerk.

23.19. Planning matters. The transactions of the Planning Committee were noted.**23.20. Date of next ordinary Council meeting – Tuesday 5th September 2017.****23.21. The Chair closed the meeting to the Public and the Press at 9:57 p.m.****Appendix 1 Footpath reports**

Further to recent reports, Much Hadham footpath 2 has been cut by our regular mowing contractor. I will get the golf course or a contractor to cut footpath Little Hadham 5 at its junction with MH footpath 2.

Much Hadham bridleway 54 should also have been cut (the contractor says that it has) but I have not checked it yet.

Albury footpaths 21 and 22 are covered by my colleague Dawn Grocock, but I inspected them, as she is recovering from a broken leg. I confirmed the problems which you reported, and she will employ a contractor to clear the vegetation.

Nicholas Maddex

Dear Nicholas,

Since it was too hot to go running this morning I managed to fit in another walk around Little Hadham before my holiday. I can confirm that LH Fp 34,38,54,55,56,57,58, and 59 have all been mown as per the schedule. Clearly LH Fp 56 has been done since your latest report from your contractor.

Robin Rogers

The latest report from our regular maintenance contractors says that they have mown/stimmed all paths on the list except for 1, 8, 12, and 56. Robin has checked many of these. If anyone else notices any problems with the other routes please let me know. This means that they think that they have completed 40 and 41, contrary to Robin's suggestion.

I checked these two routes on Friday.

FP40 looks as if the Green Street end of it was strimmed several weeks ago, but has then regrown, which is quite possible, given that the contractors often seem to strim and mow different sections of the same path several weeks apart. I will check with them if this is the case, and, if so, get another contractor to do an additional cut on this section ASAP.

FP41 is really far too narrow to mow. I need to alter my instructions to them to strim it, and the hedge needs cutting back hard. I'll check out Robin's suggestion that FP28 has not been correctly mown

Nicholas Maddex

Dear Nicholas,

From my latest walk around Little Hadham the only problem I have to report is on LH Fp 19. The part of the path between the junction LH Fp 18 and the field edge is very overgrown and about 20 yards along the field path there is a tree across the path.

A number of the paths I walked have already been mown and I can confirm that these are MH Fp 33,57 and LH Fp 24,29,42. However, I am not happy with the situation on LH Fp 40,41.

The paths have been mown from A120 along the field edge to the end of the field, the part of the path between the edge of the field and Green St has not been cleared and are very overgrown.

Robin Rogers

Dear Robin

Thank you for this update. I'll inspect these sites and take appropriate action.

It might be that the contractors are sending a different team to complete the work on footpaths 40 and 41, but I'll ensure that this gets done.

Nicholas Maddex

Appendix 2 Letter to Uttlesford District Council

Re. Stansted Airport Scoping Report on Airport Expansion

This matter was discussed at the Council meeting on Tuesday 4th July 2017. The parish of Little Hadham is under one of the busy flight paths to and from the airport and residents are concerned at the apparent increase in noise and frequency of aeroplanes over the parish. I understand that the proposed plans will dramatically increase the number of flights and passenger journeys to and from the airport. This will inevitably increase plane noise as well as traffic on the already congested A120 through the parish.

The Scoping Report is a lengthy document and councillors feel that they have not had sufficient time to fully consider its effect on the parish. The airport already has consent for expansion of traffic well beyond its current levels so there would appear to be no urgency to rush through the new report.

The Council asks that Uttlesford District Council write to Stansted Airport asking for an extension in the time available for a response to its Scoping Report. The next Council meeting will be on 5th September 2017.